

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of checking a validity of a first path indicating a first resource in a network, the method comprising:

- 5 providing the first path to a server to retrieve the first resource from the network;  
receiving a first response from the server;  
from the first response, determining the validity of the first path; and  
if the first path is invalid,  
10 (i) generating a second path from the first path, the second path being a sub-path of the first path.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

- (ii) providing the second path to the server to retrieve from the network a second resource indicated by the second path;  
15 (iii) receiving a second response from the server;  
(iv) from the second response, determining a validity of the second path; and,  
if the second path is valid,  
associating the second path with a user interface element associated with the first path.

20 3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising

- if the second path is invalid,  
repeating steps (i) to (iv) to determine a validity of at least a sub-path of the second path until a specific sub-path of the second path is valid; and,  
25 associating the specific sub-path with the user interface element.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first path is associated with a bookmark in a Web browser.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first path is associated with a link in a Web page.

30 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first path comprises a series of hierarchical locations in the network and the second path is obtained by removing at least a lower hierarchical location from the first path.

35 7. The method of Claim 2, further comprising:

- replacing the first path associated with the user interface element by the second path.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
causing a sound effect to represent a validity level of the first path.
- 5 9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
causing a display of a visual effect to represent a validity level of the first path.
10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:  
displaying a user interface element associated with the first path at a location on a  
10 display based on the validity level of the first path.
11. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:  
modifying a graphical representation of a user interface element, associated with the first  
path, on the basis of the validity level of the first path.
- 15 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first path is a uniform resource identifier.
13. A computer program comprising computer readable instructions for carrying out a  
method of checking a validity of a first path indicating a first resource in a network, the method  
20 comprising:  
providing the first path to a server to retrieve the first resource from the network;  
receiving a first response from the server;  
from the first response, determining the validity of the first path; and,  
if the first path is invalid,  
25 (i) generating a second path from the first path, the second path being a sub-path of the  
first path.
14. The computer program of Claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:  
(ii) providing the second path to the server to retrieve from the network a second  
30 resource indicated by the second path;  
(iii) receiving a second response from the server;  
(iv) from the second response, determining a validity of the second path;  
if the second path is valid,  
associating the second path with a user interface element associated with the first path.
- 35 15. The computer program of Claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:

if the second path is invalid,

repeating steps (i) to (iv) to determine a validity of at least a sub-path of the second path until a specific sub-path of the second path is valid; and,

associating the specific sub-path with the user interface element.

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16. The computer program of Claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:  
causing a display of a visual effect to represent a validity level of the first path.

17. The computer program of Claim 13, wherein the computer program is a browser.

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18. The computer program of Claim 13, wherein the computer program is a server.

19. A device comprising:

storage means for storing a first path indicating a first resource in a network;

validity checking means for checking a validity of the first path,

the validity checking means being configured to provide the first path to a server to retrieve the first resource from the network, to receive a first response from the server and to determine the validity of the first path from the first response; and

if the first path is invalid,

the validity checking means is configured to generate a second path from the first path, the second path being a sub-path of the first path.

20. The device of Claim 19, wherein

the validity checking means is configured to provide the second path to the server to retrieve from the network a second resource indicated by the second path, to receive a second response from the server and to determine a validity of the second path from the second response; and,

if the second path is valid,

the validity checking means is configured to associate the second path with a user interface element associated with the first path.

21. The device of Claim 19, further comprising

displaying means for displaying a graphical user interface comprising the user interface element;

and wherein the validity checking means is configured to cause a visual effect on the graphical user interface to represent a validity level of the first path.